

SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Memorandum of Conversation

SECRET

DATE: 17 September 1958
Time: 12:30 - 12:50 hrs
Place: Safe office in
Y Bldg

SUBJECT : AEFLAG ops discussions and Churgin's
PCS to Germany

PARTICIPANTS: [] (p), Churgin (p) and [] alias)

COPIES TO : none

NOTE. [] INSTRUCTIONS TO
[] FAMILY - ATTACHED

- Churgin: a) Gave [] the translations of his letter to Col. Galindoms in Boston, dated 4 Sep 1958 and Col. Galindoms reply to Churgin, dated 13 Sep 1958. These letters are attached and pertain to the Latvian language broadcasts which might be initiated at Radio Rome.
- []: a) Informed Churgin that he should have mentioned to [] that he has written to Col. Galindoms in re to the Rome broadcasts, for the way Churgin has handled this matter is not the right way to do things. "Harry Furth" told Churgin that after all he has been instructed previously not to get involved in any activities with out prior consultation with HQ's. Churgin indicated that he considered this a private letter. [] stated that he should realize that any thing that pertain to Latvian affairs is not private business and that we have to be advised about it before Churgin takes any action whatsoever. Upon this Churgin replied that after he was told to keep his hands off the Radio Rome activities he has not done anything about it, but that he wrote this letter to Col. Galindoms before he was told to keep his hands off. [] also informed Churgin that he can not understand Churgin's actions due to to instructions given to him previously.
- b) Gave Churgin the Passport application forms which he has to fill out, and also informed Churgin that he will be permitted to take 350 lbs baggage to his PCS assignment in Germany, which can be transported to New York via the Powell Transportation Co the phone # was given to Churgin. Churgin was also told that the Co. will pick up his baggage at his home, for which Churgin will have to pay in cash and they will deliver it to S/S America ~~xxxxxxx~~ which will be docked at Pier # 86 in the Port of NY. The ship will leave NY at 16:00 hrs on the 23rd Oct 1958. Churgin was told that he will ~~xxxxxxx~~ receive a more detailed briefing at a later date.
- [] a) Informed [] that a Senate's Committee is investigating the dropping of the Baltic language broadcasts over the facilities of VOA, and that the President of ALA Dr. Lejins has been asked to testify today.
- b) [] also inquired and stated that the Agency should ~~xxxx~~ take action to influence the USIA to continue the Latvian language broadcasts. Upon this [] replied that we can not influence State Department policies.

DRM NO. 1132
FEB 57

CHURGIN'S CORRESPONDENCE WITH GALINDOMS (11-23-58)
ATTACHED

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE/METHOD/EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2006

Subject: Translated excerpts from HUGO's correspondence with 1937 concerning
Latvian broadcasts from Rome.

HUGO to 1937 on 4 Sept. '58:

" ... During the recent weeks there were two news in our (Latvian) press which show that there are good possibilities (for Latvian broadcasts, instead of the now closed VOA Latvian broadcasts from Munich) at some other place, namely in Italy. Latvija Amerika, quoting the press conference of the Committee for Free Latvia, mentions that the government of Italy is ready to allot the transmitting station of Rome for Latvian broadcasts if only the Latvians themselves prepare the program and pay for one worker there. In addition, the (Latvian) National Foundation (in Scandinavia), too, is told to be inquiring now about the possibility of such broadcasts from Rome. My idea in this connection is as follows:
we should collect until 18th November (Latvian National Day) the Reward for Latvia which would enable to start such broadcasts. In such case they would be our own broadcasts, not attached to the policy of some foreign country and its fluctuations since they would then be obtained on a purely commercial basis, not by the support of the funds of the respective country. Then we would be able at last to speak as Latvians to the Latvians and in my opinion only such language would reach the hearts and strengthen those at home (in Latvia) in their resoluteness to survive and regain the lost freedom... I don't think that such project would be too difficult for us financially, especially if we recall the case of the Barzaine (Latvian War Invalids' Home in West Germany) and the great response it got (though it was not very well chosen it did carry away the people emotionally); a superficial calculation shows that the stay for one worker in Rome should not cost more than \$ 4000.; it does not seem that the Italians would ask for the broadcasting time more than \$ 100. per hour - which would amount to \$ 5200. per year with two broadcasts weekly of half an hour each; the total yearly expenditures would reach then approx. \$ 10,000. But did not the contributions (of the Latvian exiles) for the Barzaine amount to a sum twice as much - if my memory is not in error - and at that time our income was decidedly lower. That means that such single, all embracing action to the 18th of November should secure our national broadcasts for the next three years.... I assume that in such case there will be also some few American benefactors who would contribute their share if they would see that we ourselves are ready for sacrifice. All the aforementioned is only the principal side; it lacks the necessary estimate (of the expenses). I asked for such from Sweden if the National Foundation there has got some information about it...

Today I read that our Minister (Dr. SPEKKE) will be in Boston Saturday... I want you to take up the hard task of the lobbyist in order to get the Minister interested in this and to convince him (about it)... It would be enough if you would let your voice to be heard (about this project) since it is still a powerful voice and understands to captivate many - as others beside me know it. Additionally - I have the irresistible conviction that just now all the (Latvian) emigration ~~is~~ has sunken in such confusion when it would like to do much but does not see the right way, does not discern any way at all. There is a will and capabilities - as I experienced it most vividly at the Song Festival in New York - but there is a lack of accomplishment and organization. There are no leaders anymore, no common denominator for great and important works. Wise talks and pompous resolutions - as you say - actually are not able to carry anyone away. But the 18th November is approaching - should we stick again to the talks and resolutions only?"

1937 to HUGO on 13 Sept.'58:

"... The group of the Latvian fraternity members in Boston had an intern party in honor of Dr.SPEKKE on Sunday (Sept.14) afternoon ... I came with the following proposal - reminding that while in Germany (after WW II) all the (Latvian) fraternities collected in contributions 14,000 DM for the publishing of the booklets " The People of Balticum Want to Live " - couldn't all the fraternities even now collect the means and start again the broadcasts to Latvia; it would be possible, as far as I know, via the Italian transmitting station. It would show to the American foreign policy officials on what action are able our university graduates and students who are keeping vigil for the fate of their homeland. Could Mr.Minister (DR.SPEKKE) make use of his former connections (in Italy) and what is his opinion about it ? - S(SPEKKE) praised such proposal very cordially though remarked that it would be difficult for him to be of some support here since his old acquaintances in Italy are replaced for some time ago; they (SPEKKE and other officials of the Latv.Legation) would be very pleased by such action and they would be able then to show in the respective places what we (Latvians) have already achieved. - I understood that in any case the realization of this proposal by us would be of great importance in many ways all the same how large it would be (the action) - even as an idea as such. Tonight we have a fraternity meeting again and I have to submit my written proposal. I was not able to prepare it this week and I hope that I would be able to present my proposal together with a motivation and somewhat more pertinent facts at the next meeting. It would be of great importance to me to know within a week ~~xxx~~ what is your opinion about the trend of my proposal (apparently the idea about the fraternities as the driving force - H.) and - in positive case - I would have to have more detailed information how all this would be possible in reality through the Italian broadcasting station. The idea seems to be good and I think that the fraternities would accept it but then one has to know what has to be done and what are the possibilities - by presenting the facts. It seems also that in case the fraternities would accept this idea they would like to take the credit for it and that they would ~~xxx~~ bind themselves with some other organizations..."